
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND OTHER RELATED ENTITIES TO TAKE ACTION TO HELP EXPAND THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, one of the Governor's key issue platforms is to
2 double local food production by 2020; and

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4 WHEREAS, nearly ninety percent of Hawaii's current food
5 stock is imported, including more than sixty percent of seafood
6 consumed in the State; and

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8 WHEREAS, importing food in such high quantities leads to
9 higher food prices, increased carbon emissions, and increased
10 threats from invasive species; and

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12 WHEREAS, several studies have shown that anywhere from
13 twenty to thirty-three percent of seafood imported to the United
14 States is fraudulently labeled, posing serious health risks and
15 sustainability concerns; and

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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's per capita fish consumption is almost
18 three times larger than the per capita fish consumption of the
19 United States mainland; and

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21 WHEREAS, in 2017, Hawaii's aquaculture industry farm gate
22 value was \$76,400,000, the third highest contribution to the
23 economy in diversified agriculture; and

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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii's favorable climate and geography allow for
26 inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production; and

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28 WHEREAS, the former Aquaculture Development Program within
29 the Department of Agriculture, once a critical program that
30 helped propel Hawaii to the forefront of aquaculture research
31 and development, has recently been downsized, overhauled to



1 include livestock issues, and is now known as the Aquaculture
2 and Livestock Support Services Branch; and

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4 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 753, currently before the
5 Legislature, acknowledges the importance of the Aquaculture
6 Development Program and proposes to revitalize the Department of
7 Agriculture's Animal Industry Division; and

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9 WHEREAS, a revitalized aquaculture industry could help
10 revitalize rural communities that have been increasingly left
11 behind by other economic drivers; and

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13 WHEREAS, the potential for aquaculture is enormous, and
14 doubling current aquaculture production in the United States
15 would create fifty thousand jobs and generate one billion
16 dollars in market value; and

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18 WHEREAS, more investment and research into the aquaculture
19 industry is needed, including investment and research into
20 different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization,
21 economic implications of various methods of aquaculture
22 production, and sustainable scaling methods; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
26 2019, that the Governor, the Department of Agriculture, the
27 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
28 Resources, and other related entities are urged to take action
29 to help expand the aquaculture industry within the State in an
30 effort to meet the Governor's goal of doubling local food
31 production; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
34 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is urged to
35 transfer parcels identified as Tax Map Keys 5-8-001-013,
36 5-8-001-055, 5-8-001-007, and 5-8-001-006 to the Agribusiness
37 Development Corporation for the purposes of establishing
38 aquaculture production in those lands; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
42 Board of Agriculture, Administrator of the Department of



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1 Agriculture Animal Industry Division, Program Manager of
2 Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services, Dean of the
3 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
4 Resources, and Executive Director of the Agribusiness
5 Development Corporation.

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OFFERED BY:

S. O'Neil
and
Dr. H. H. H.
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MAR 08 2019

